



MECKLENBURG COUNTY  
Health Department

October 22, 2009

**Influenza A H1N1 Advisory**

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**Highlights:**

- **Antiviral recommendations from CDC**
  - **New Guidance from CDC—Triage Algorithm for children with ILI; Infection Control Measures in Healthcare Settings, Including Protection of Healthcare Personnel**
  - **Provider forms for H1N1 Vaccine**
  - **Letter from Mecklenburg County Health Department regarding school-located vaccination clinics**
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- Treatment with oseltamivir or zanamivir, when indicated, should be initiated as early as possible without waiting for laboratory confirmation because the benefits are greatest when started within the first 2 days of illness. However, some studies of hospitalized patients with seasonal and 2009 H1N1 influenza have suggested benefit of antiviral treatment even when treatment was started more than 48 hours after illness onset. Early empiric treatment should now be considered for pregnant women and women up to 2 weeks postpartum (including following pregnancy loss). The complete report "**Updated Interim Recommendations for the Use of Antiviral Medications in the Treatment and Prevention of Influenza for the 2009-2010 Season**" as well as information on the dose and dosing schedule for oseltamivir and zanamivir can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/recommendations.htm>
- Triage algorithm for children ( $\leq 18$  years) with influenza-like illness was developed for use by physicians and those under their direct supervision, not for use by the general public, to help in discussions and providing advice to parents or other caregivers of ill children regarding seeking medical care for an influenza-like illness. The algorithm can be used regardless of whether or not the child has been vaccinated for influenza. The complete algorithm can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/clinicians/pdf/childalgorithm2.pdf>. Infection control measure revisions from earlier guidance include: criteria for identification of suspected influenza patients; recommended time away from work for healthcare personnel; changes to isolation precautions based on tasks and anticipated exposures; expansion of information on the hierarchy of controls which ranks preventive interventions in the following order of preference: elimination of exposures, engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment; and changes to guidance on use of respiratory protection. Go to [http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines\\_infection\\_control.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidelines_infection_control.htm) for the complete guidance document.
- Go to <http://www.immunizenc.com/H1N1VaccineProviders.htm> for: Weekly Aggregate Report Form; Minimum Vaccine Ordering, Handling & Storage Procedures; Wasted/Expired Vaccine Report; Billing Information; Vaccine Package Inserts; VAERS Reporting Form; Vaccine Transfer Form
- Attached is a letter from Dr. Stephen Keener, Medical Director of the Mecklenburg County Health Department, with information on upcoming school-located H1N1 Vaccination Clinics.

For questions or more information, please contact the Health Department's H1N1 call line at 704.432.3600 or go to <http://cdcontrol.charmeck.org/ForProviders>.